

Application No.: 10/680,334
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Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-24 (canceled).

25. (currently amended) A process for regenerating a catalyst comprising a porous microcomposite comprising perfluorinated ion-exchange polymer with pendant sulfonic and/or carboxylic acid groups entrapped within and highly dispersed throughout a network of metal oxide, wherein the weight percentage of perfluorinated ion-exchange polymer in the microcomposite is from about 0.1 to about 90 percent, wherein the size of the pores in the microcomposite is about 1 nm to about 75 nm, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the microcomposite with an acid; and
- (b) removing the excess acid to yield the regenerated catalyst.

26. (original) The process of Claim 25 wherein the perfluorinated ion-exchange polymer contains pendant sulfonic acid groups and the metal oxide is silica, alumina, titania, germania, zirconia, alumino-silicate, zirconyl-silicate, chromic oxide and/or iron oxide.

27. (previously presented) The process of Claim 57 wherein the metal oxide is silica.

Claims 28-56 (canceled).

57. (original) The process of Claim 25 wherein the microcomposite further comprises pores having a size in the range of about 75 nm to about 1000 nm.

58. (original) The process of Claim 25 wherein the acid is nitric acid.